

# Cooperative Habitat Protection Partnerships



## PROMOTING LOCAL STRATEGIES TO PROTECT COASTAL AND MARINE FISH HABITAT

### 1. Enable communities to identify issues, develop strategies, and implement solutions to protect coastal and marine fish habitat

- Community Outreach Habitat Operation (COHO) will produce an assessment of salmon presence and habitat characteristics in Little Campbell Creek, a salmon stream in Anchorage, Alaska. The city will use the data in its watershed plan to account for salmon habitat in its efforts to direct future growth in the Anchorage area. Upfront awareness and inclusion of this information allows decision makers to direct development to less vulnerable areas or encourage project designs that have minimal impact to salmon habitat. Proactive consideration of this information not only protects the ecological integrity of habitat resources, but also reduces time and money spent on individual projects by giving interested parties knowledge of which areas will be sensitive to impacts and trigger a regulatory process. (NMFS/HC contribution \$24,750)



- A joint effort with The Nature Conservancy and the Wetlands Conservancy will develop conceptual watershed and ecosystem-level models of estuaries in the Pacific Northwest. The models will incorporate ecosystem processes, species interactions, and threat identification to help regional and local decision makers identify the highest priority habitat protection opportunities. The partnership will bring together organizations, including the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership, University of Washington, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, to share their data and reports for input into the models. Another project output will include a suite of high-level indicators for monitoring Pacific Northwest estuaries and their critical species, providing ongoing feedback on the management strategies chosen to protect these valuable resources. Lessons learned from this project and its methodology will be applied to planning efforts in other locations. (NMFS/HC contribution \$18,969)

- The National Fish Data Summit will bring together representatives from state resource management programs to compile and share datasets for use in a national fisheries information system with local applications. Potential datasets may include fish surveys, habitat layers, and water chemistry. While many of these data sets have resided at the state agency level, their utility has been limited by the extent to which they are shared and utilized by partner agencies within the same state or in adjacent states. The intent of the workshop is to compile all available fish-related datasets to assess the current status of data and share information as states and habitat and fisheries agencies partner to protect fish habitat at the regional level. Workshops such as this one will help gather and disseminate information useful to communities and their decision makers as they develop strategies and actions for protecting fish habitat. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering a role in the NFHI that would improve coordination among state marine fisheries agencies in addressing habitat issues. (NMFS/HC contribution \$13,000)



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### 2. Establish and nurture local partnerships to protect habitat

- The Mattole Flow Program addresses low summer stream flows on the Mattole River headwaters of the Northern Mendocino and Southern Humboldt Counties of California. The project will include installation of two 50,000 gallon tanks along the upper mainstem Mattole River, and long term (15 year) landowner forbearance agreements to prevent summertime water diversion. The project will benefit threatened coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead by providing water to the stream system that mimics natural summertime flows. Partnerships with landowners will improve local understanding and potentially increase voluntary long-term stewardship of these valuable salmon habitats. (NMFS/HC contribution \$50,000)



- Healthy Streams for Native Rogue Fish will help support the Oregon Water Trust to work with local property owners to decrease the amount of water diverted for irrigation and other purposes. The project will result in increased flows to Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek in the Rogue River Basin and will support monitoring and implementation of water rights transfer agreements. These local partnerships will help local landowners understand the value of fish habitat and take voluntary actions to reduce activities that can negatively impact streams in the Rogue River Basin. (NMFS/HC contribution \$19,399)

- The Nantucket Sound Community Water Quality Monitoring program will engage volunteers in fishing communities to monitor water quality and eelgrass beds. The monitoring events will focus on the viability of sensitive shellfish beds in coastal embayments. The volunteer program will not only produce valuable data regarding the health of these important habitats, but also increase the active participation of fishing communities in protecting the resources on which they depend. Stewardship products will include a “lessons learned” document addressing the logistics of recruiting volunteers in fishing communities and a summary report on the event from participants’ perspectives. These outputs will help CHPPs and its partners improve stewardship efforts in other coastal communities. Project partners include the Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership and the University of Massachusetts. (NMFS/HC contribution \$22,800)

#### For more information, contact:

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